

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending; and of these, claims 1-2 have been amended, and claims 3-8 have been canceled, thus leaving claims 1-2 to be examined.

Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested in view of this Paper.

Applicant has amended Applicant's independent claim 1 to recite a paper feed roller for feeding paper comprising a hollow pipe member forming a paper feed portion for feeding paper, and a pair of shaft members fastened concentrically on to both end portions of the pipe member, said pipe member comprising a steel pipe, a coating layer made from a synthetic resin covering an outer surface of the steel pipe, and a synthetic resin friction coating layer containing hard particles formed on an outer surface of the coating layer, the outer surface of the coating layer being machined smoothly and in receipt thereafter of the synthetic friction coating layer, and a film thickness of the synthetic resin friction coating layer being substantially half of the diameter of at least one of the plurality of synthetic resin friction layer hard particles, said particles comprising a particle diameter of 60 to 150 microns. Applicant's independent claim 2 has been similarly amended. Thus, with respect to Applicant's claims 1-2, as amended, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has (1) rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi et al. (JP 10329970) in view of Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) at pages 1-3 of Applicant's specification, and (2) indicated that claims 6-8 are allowed. As stated hereinabove, Applicant has cancelled claims 3-8, thus leaving claims 1-2 to be examined. Accordingly, claims 1-2 are addressed below with respect to the rejection thereof, rejection of claims 3-5 now being moot; further, Applicant takes this opportunity to express Applicant's appreciation for the prior indication of allowance of claims 6-8.

The constructions recited in Applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 2 are not taught or suggested by Sakaguchi et al. or AAPA, either when taken alone or in combination. More particularly, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicant's featured paper feed roller for feeding paper comprising its outer surface of the coating layer being machined smoothly and in receipt thereafter of the synthetic friction coating layer, and a film thickness of the synthetic resin friction coating layer being substantially half of the diameter of at least one of the plurality of synthetic resin friction layer hard particles, said particles comprising a particle diameter of 60 to 150 microns.

In this way, Applicant's constructions optimize Applicant's friction coefficient of the synthetic resin friction coating layer containing the hard particles, and thus the overall functioning of Applicant's paper feed roller, as the

film thickness of the synthetic resin friction coating layer [is] substantially half of the diameter of at least one of the plurality of synthetic resin friction layer hard particles, said particles comprising a particle diameter of 60 to 150 microns.

Applicant's specification, at least at pages 9, 12-13 and 15.

Nowhere, either in Sakaguchi et al. or in Applicant's discussion of the prior art, is there any teaching or suggestion of the aforementioned construction comprising the feature in which a film thickness of the synthetic resin friction coating layer [is] substantially half of the diameter of at least one of the plurality of synthetic resin friction layer hard particles, said particles comprising a particle diameter of 60 to 150 microns.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over Sakaguchi et al. and AAPA, either when taken alone or in combination.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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